DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1.   Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority filed in Japan on

09/23/2003 under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 03/16/2006 have been

considered and made of record by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> **(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.**

3.   Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Geble et al. (US 6151443 A).

Regarding claim 17, Gable et al. disclose a decoding apparatus (Fig. 4) comprising:

- a reproducing unit for reproducing transport stream recorded on a recording

    medium (Fig. 2; col. 4: lines 27-41) in such a manner that an image encoding

    data prepared by encoding an image signal by in-frame encoding ("I-frames" in

col. 1: line 58 to col. 2: line 14, and in Fig. 2) and by inter-frame prediction

encoding ("B-frames" and "P-frames" in col. 1: line 58 to col. 2: line 14, and in

Fig. 2), time information and identification information indicating that continuity of

said time information is interrupted (Fig. 2: Time Discontinuity ("Splice Point");

col. 4: lines 11-26) are multiplexed (Fig. 2), said identification information being

generated when continuity of said time information has been interrupted ("...point

of discontinuity..." in col. 4: lines 27-41);

- an image decoding unit for decoding said image decoding data contained in a
  reproduction signal reproduced by said reproducing unit and for outputting said
  image data (decoder 2 in Fig. 1; col. 6: lines 10-27);

- a storage unit for temporarily storing said image data ("buffered memory" in col.
  7: lines 43-56);

- a time information reading unit for reading said time information contained in said
  reproduction signal reproduced by said reproducing unit ("Splice point
  indicators..." in col. 2: lines 27-41);

- an identification information reading unit for reading said identification information
  contained in said reproduction signal reproduced by said reproducing unit
  ("Splice point indicators..." in col. 2: lines 27-41);

- a display timing signal generating unit for generating a display timing signal of
  said image data by using said time information read by said time information
  reading unit when said identification information reading unit does not read said
  identification information, and for neglecting said time information read by said

time information reading unit and for generating a display timing signal of said

image data by using a predetermined timing signal ("splice point indicator and

PID's...is detected..." in col. 8: lines; "...if splice point was caused by..." in col. 6:

line 65 to col. 7: line 56") ;

Gable et al. do not explicitly disclose a reading control unit for controlling the reading of

said image data stored in said storage unit according to a display timing signal

generated by said display timing signal generating unit. However, reading image data

according to a display timing signal is merely a matter that could be practiced as

required by a person skilled in the art. Because this technique would have been obvious

to one of skill in the art at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to

incorporate it into the invention disclosed by Gable et al. to generate the claimed

invention with a reasonable expectation of success.

Regarding claim 18, Gable et al. disclose decoding method (Fig. 5) comprising:

- generating a reproduction signal by reproducing a transport stream recorded on

  a recording medium (Fig. 2; col. 4: lines 27-41) in such a manner that an image

  encoding data prepared by encoding an image signal by in-frame encoding ("I-

  frames" in col. 1: line 58 to col. 2: line 14, and in Fig. 2) and by inter-frame

  prediction encoding ("B-frames" and "P-frames" in col. 1: line 58 to col. 2: line 14,

  and in Fig. 2), (Fig. 2: Time Discontinuity ("Splice Point"); col. 4: lines 11-26) are

  multiplexed (Fig. 2), said identification information being generated when

continuity of said time information has been interrupted ("...point of
discontinuity..." in col. 4: lines 27-41);

- decoding said image encoding data contained in said reproduction signal and
  outputting an image data (decoder 2 in Fig. 1; col. 6: lines 10-27);

- temporarily storing said image data ("buffered memory" in col. 7: lines 43-56);

- reading said time information contained in said reproduction signal; reading said
  identification information contained in said reproduction signal ("Splice point
  indicators..." in col. 2: lines 27-41);

- generating a display timing of said image data by using said time information as
  read when said identification information has not been read, and neglected said
  time information as read and generating a display timing signal of said image
  data by using a predetermined timing signal when said identification information
  has been read ("splice point indicator and PID's...is detected..." in col. 8: lines;
  "...if splice point was caused by..." in col. 6: line 65 to col. 7: line 56");

Gable et al. do not explicitly disclose controlling the reading of said image data as
stored according to the generated display timing signal. However, reading image data
according to a display timing signal is merely a matter that could be practiced as
required by a person skilled in the art. Because this technique would have been obvious
to one of skill in the art at the time of invention, it would have been obvious to
incorporate it into the invention disclosed by Gable et al. to generate the claimed
invention with a reasonable expectation of success.

Regarding claim 19, Gable et al. disclose as stated in rejection of claim 17 above.

Gable et al. also disclose said identification information reading unit is arranged to read

said identification information multiplexed with a part of bits of a private data,

constituting an optional field within an adaptation field which is within a transport packet

making up said transport stream ("Program Identification…in…transport

streams…uniquely..." in col. 6: line 54-64)

Regarding claim 20, Gable et al. disclose as stated in rejection of claim 18 above.

Gable et al. also disclose a process for reading said identification information is a

process for reading said identification information multiplexed with a part of bits of a

private data, constituting an optional field within an adaptation field which is within a

transport packet making up said transport stream ("Program

Identification…in…transport streams…uniquely..." in col. 6: line 54-64).

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure. Ikeda (US 20050004940 A1); English Translation of International

Preliminary Report on Patentability Chapter I; English Translation of the Written Opinion

of the International Search Authority.

Contact Information

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nader Bolourchi whose telephone number is (571) 272-8064. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 to 4:30.

6.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David. C. Payne can be reached on (571) 272-3024. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

7.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).

/N. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 2611

/David C. Payne/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2611